

Brevities

According to a German scientist the earth weighs 11,913,000,000,000 pounds.

One hundred thousand tons of apples are raised on British soil yearly.

Heather grows in many parts of South Africa.

The golden eagle has great strength. It lifts and carries off with ease a weight of 80 pounds.

It is said that 4,200 species of plants are gathered and used for commercial purposes in Europe.

In 1800 there were 200 horses in Australia; in 1900 there were 2,000,000.

It is said that mate, the South American tea, will sustain life many days without the pangs of hunger.

The tip of the minute hand of the average watch travels nearly four-fifths of a mile every year.

Red-headed people are less likely to become bald than those who have hair of other tints.

It is estimated that the productive capacity of the labor-saving machinery in the United States is now equal to a hard-working population of 400,000,000.

It may make life happier to know that a cat just about half-grown can devour 29 mice a day, or 7,300 a year.

Mrs. Kruger, wife of "Oom" Paul, is the richest woman in the Transvaal, but she does her own cooking and makes the beds.

A French engineer is trying to apply air in such a way to machinery as to make it serve as lubricator.

There are only three remaining of the original 13 crosses built by King Edward I. to mark the resting place of Queen Eleanor's funeral procession. One is near Northampton, one Waltham Cross, the third at Charing Cross.

An acid, distilled from rain-soaked coal dust has made its appearance as a dangerous enemy of steel cars. It eats into the metal and causes rapid corrosion.

When the British sparrow-hawk is flying toward its dinner it cleaves space at the rate of 150 miles an hour.

In the village of Millbeck, near Keswick, is a most curious freak of nature. Two trunks rise on each side of a spring of clear water and join together three feet above, forming one tree.

When it was so hot, a week or so ago, hundreds of sparrows that dwelt in the ivy on the walls of a certain block of houses in Philadelphia would fly down to the pavement and take baths in the streams of the lawn sprinklers without the least indication of fear.

Mrs. Theodore Sutro, of New York, is henceforth entitled to write "Mus. Doc." after her name. She is one of only two women in the English-speaking world with the same distinction. The other is the Princess of Wales.

Workmen employed in the direction of a new primary school at the corner of Peart, Bartlett and School streets, Charlestown, Mass., struck a vault below the surface and found a lot of corroded coin in it which proved to be silver dollars, and seemed to be stacked up in some semblance of order. Most of the coins could not be identified at first on account of the thick corrosion, but a few in the middle of the piles were clean enough to show the dates.

It appears that the lifetime of the mosquito is three months. Mosquitoes have been kept alive in captivity for 80 days. It is said that the ordinary minnow, which feeds upon the larvae of mosquitoes, is highly efficient as a means for keeping down their numbers.

Our Cream Pitcher

J. Wilbur Chapman

Conversion and consecration stand in marked contrast; in conversion the believer receives the testimony of God, and sets his seal to it that it is true; in consecration God receives the gift we place upon the altar, and sets his seal upon the believer that he is true.

Alexander Maclaren, D. D.

Christ sometimes delays his help that he may try our faith and quicken our prayers. The boat may be covered with the waves, and he sleeps on, but he will wake before it sinks. He sleeps, but he never oversleeps, and there are no too late with him.

J. R. Miller

Patience is among the noblest virtues. It is divine in its beauty. God is wonderfully patient—if he were not, there would be no hope for any of us. Jesus was patient in all his life—with his disciples, with the thronging multitudes, with his enemies, in pain, in suffering, in all trial. If we would be master of our own life, if we would attain nobility and beauty of character, if we would be overcomers in trial, temptation, and suffering, if we would win our own soul, we must learn the lesson of patience.

Presbyterian

A compromising spirit may have its place and value at times, but there is danger of carrying it too far. Backbone is a very important article in minister and elder; in fact, in every Christian. Adherence to truth and right under all circumstances is commendable in God's sight if not in man's. More of it is needed in our day and generation. The tendency is toward easy sailing both in State and Church. Principle is too much subordinated to expediency.

Liddon

The human soul seeks in the Church of God something more than a reed shaken with the wind; something more than a man clothed in soft raiment; even something more than an intellectually gifted prophet. It seeks that felt but indescribable touch of a higher world which lifts it above the trivialities of this; it seeks a temple, the threshold of which it may cross, but whose sanctuary lies within the bosom of the Infinite; it seeks a life, the divine pulsations of which it knows to issue from an invisible Heart; above all, it seeks whatever will lead it most effectually and most intimately to Him—its Lord and God—who alone can satisfy the deep, mysterious yearnings with which He has Himself endowed it.

Christian Intelligencer

The spirit that pervades a man's daily life is the measure of his real religion. If he can carry heavy burdens with a light and cheerful heart, and meet calamities with a serene courage, then it is reasonable to conclude that in the depth of his soul he has real faith, which, like a fountain in an oasis, keeps everything sweet and blossoming. He may never publish his faith aloud, nevertheless it is read and known of all men in the beauty and courage of his life. For, after all, a cheerful courage is the sincerest possible confession of the Christian's belief that all things are working together for good, and that God, in his providence, is ever changing the hard places into smooth, the darkness into light.

R. E. Williams, D. D.

When Jesus left this world he committed his Spirit to the Father; he bequeathed his body to Joseph of Arimathea, to be laid away in his newly-made tomb; his clothes fell to the soldiers; his mother he committed to John, the beloved. And now what is left for the disciples who had followed him so long? Silver and gold he had none—no

great estate which he could settle upon them. He said, "Foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head." He had none of these things to leave them, but he had something that would be worth infinitely more to them. "My peace I give unto you."

This peace was given to the disciples. They would be exposed to the wrath of a sinful world, and they would need so much the comfort and consolation of God's blessed presence. But this peace was not only promised to the disciples, but to their successors and to Christians all along down the ages. It is for you and for me, my reader, if we will take it as a precious gift. The peace he leaves is peace with God, peace with one another, and peace reigning in our hearts and lives.

Ways Busy Teachers Prepare Lessons

Bertha F. Vella.

They plan and prepare by degrees.

They read the lessons verses the Sunday previous.

They follow the "daily readings" in their daily devotions.

They think of the lesson, even when about their daily occupations.

They talk over the lesson with teachers they meet.

They use lesson "helps" each day, as they find time.

They find illustrations familiar to the class.

They recall something in their own lives as children which may be used as illustrations.

They seek for stories and object lessons in their general reading.

They keep clippings in scrapbooks or in envelopes, so marked that it is easy to find those relating to particular subjects.

They index a list of illustrations to be found in books and periodicals they do not wish to cut.

They make illustrations. If they read a suitable story, they decide to picture it by a drawing or by using objects mentioned in it.

They gather incidents in the kitchen, sewing room parlor, street, school, store, or cars.

They give one hour a week to attend a primary teacher's class, if possible.

They question parents for suggestions or about results of their work.

They ask God for wisdom to know the message for their classes from that lesson.

They select the best illustrations they have at hand for that one message or application.

They pray in spirit while teaching.

They review their teaching upon their return from their classes and see ways to do better "next time."

The Lord Will Provide

A city missionary one Saturday night was going home with a basket of provisions on his arm. Meeting a policeman, he asked him if there had any families moved in the bounds of his beat during the week. He answered "Yes," and pointing to a building up an alley said, "a woman and some children are living there now."

The missionary went to the house, rapped at the door, and was admitted. The woman was sitting by a small light sewing. In the corner of the room were two little girls, ap-